

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02314 221311Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0001
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UNCLAS SEOUL 2314

DEPARTMENT FOR A/OPR AND A/SY/OPS/FO

ISLAMABAD FOR RSO - PASS RSS KNAUF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASUP, ATRN, ASEC
SUBJECT: COUNTERTERRORISM CONSTRUCTION - CONSULAR SECTION, SEOUL

REFS: (A) SEOUL 1291, (B) STATE 062627

1. SINCE REF (A) TRANSMITTED, POST HAS COMMENCED CONSTRUCTION OF MARINE/RECEPTIONIST AREA IN CONSULAR SECTION.
2. AT TIME CONSTRUCTION BEGAN POST HAD TWO BALLISTIC PANELS FOR MARINE/RECEPTIONIST AREA WHICH WERE CRACKED DURING SHIPMENT TO POST. SUBSEQUENT TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION, FIVE ADDITIONAL PIECES HAVE BEEN CRACKED. AT LEAST ONE BALLISTIC PANEL CRACKED SUBSEQUENT TO BEING INSTALLED. POST FEELS MATERIAL CRACKED AFTER INSTALLATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS/MATERIALS MAKE NO PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE RUBBER CUSHION BETWEEN PANELS AND FRAMES AND BETWEEN PLATE GLASS AND METAL SCREWS. AS A RESULT, THE MATERIALS, ONCE INSTALLED, HAVE INSUFFICIENT CUSHION TO ALLOW FOR EXPANSION/CONTRACTION OF METAL FRAMES AND PRESSURE, HOWEVER SLIGHT, RESULTS IN BREAKAGE OF PLATE GLASS.

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B) IT IS FELT THAT THE MATERIALS WERE CONSTRUCTED TO SUCH A CRITICAL SPECIFICATION THAT WHEN INSTALLED TEMPERATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES RESULT IN CRACKING OF PANEL.

C) THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE MANUFACTURER ARE LESS THAN SPECIFIC. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE NO

LOCAL CONTRACTORS EXPERIENCED IN THIS TYPE OF INSTALLATION.

3. INITIALLY, POST COMMENCED CONSTRUCTION OF THIS AREA LARGELY TO GET PROJECT IN MOTION. IT WAS FELT THAT CRACKED PIECES COULD BE INSTALLED AND LATER REPLACED WHEN NEW PANELS WERE RECEIVED FROM MANUFACTURER. AT THIS POINT, OF SEVEN PANELS ALREADY INSTALLED, SIX ARE CRACKED. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THESE CRACKS ONLY INVOLVE THE PLATE GLASS AFFIXED TO THE BALLISTIC MATERIALS. NEVERTHELESS, THE INSTALLED PANELS ARE UNSIGHTLY TO THE PUBLIC EYE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE INHERENT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THIS PROJECT, POST IS REMOVING TWO PANELS WHICH PRESENTLY ARE LOCATED OVER MARINE/RECEPTIONIST COUNTER. POST IS ALSO SUSPENDING INSTALLATION UNTIL THE ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE RESOLVED.

5. EVEN IF NEW PANELS ARE SHIPPED TO POST IT IS FELT THAT WITHOUT PROPER PROVISION FOR RUBBER CUSHION BETWEEN PANELS AND FRAMES AND AROUND SCREWS, AND SPECIFIC, STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS, CRACKED PANELS WILL RESULT AFTER INSTALLATION.

6. BASED ON THE ABOVE, IT IS REQUESTED THAT OPR TAKE THESE ISSUES UP WITH THE CONTRACTOR AND ADVISE THE POST SOONEST.
FYI: WITH BOTH THE CHANCERY LOBBY AND THE CONSULAR SECTION MATERIALS COMBINED, POST NOW HAS TWELVE PANELS WHICH ARE CRACKED.
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